



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



SOUTH DAKOTA KOREAN WAR VETERANS HONORED

Saturday, July 27, Korean War Veterans and their families gathered at the Capitol Lake Visitor Center in Pierre to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

Bob Hill, DOD Korean War 60th Anniversary Commemoration Committee Ambassador, welcomed guests and thanked them for their service to this great country and to South Korea.

Ms Chang Kil Suk (representing the people of South Korea) and SDDVA Secretary Larry Zimmerman representing the great state of South Dakota, were the keynote speakers for this ceremony. Both thanked the veterans for their service and their commitment to preserve the freedom of South Korea. "Although some may tag the Korean War as the Forgotten War," said Secretary Zimmerman, "you my dear friends, will never be forgotten, nor will the sacrifices you and your families made." Secretary Zimmerman recognized all of the Korean War Veterans in attendance and said, "You have established a magnificent legacy of valor." Zimmerman thanked all in attendance and concluded his remarks with "God bless our men in women in uniform and may God continue to bless this great country of ours."



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SDNG MUSEUM HOSTS KOREAN WAR EXHIBIT



Last week, the South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre hosted the 60th anniversary of the Korean War exhibit. The exhibit includes photos, clothing, boots, gear and other items that explain the Korean War. During the past three years, Bob Hill of Brookings has displayed the exhibit in Brookings, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City, Sioux Falls, Sisseton and Watertown. Hill is South Dakota's ambassador to the Defense Department's committee commemorating the Korean War, which lasted from 1950 to 1953.

Sonja Johnson, director of the South Dakota National Guard Museum said, "It was an honor to host this exhibit and I am grateful for being afforded the opportunity to visit with the Korean War Veterans and hear about their war-time experiences." "Bob Hill did an excellent job of collecting Korean War artifacts and we appreciate him for sharing his exhibit with us," said Johnson.

EVOLUTION OF GAS MASKS

Sonja Johnson, director of the South Dakota National Guard Museum, continues to develop programs to educate the youth on the legacy of South Dakotas veterans.

During the month of July she had approximately 125 students participate in an education program on the evolution of gas masks. Students from the Pierre/Ft. Pierre Boys and Girls Club, Children's Castle and the YMCA participated in this program

The goal of the project was to introduce the students to a piece of equipment that has been used in all war eras. The gas mask dates back to WWI when chemical warfare was first introduced on a large scale. Johnson provided the students with a history of the masks, why they were used, and how they have changed over the years.



ABERDEEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO SPONSOR WEEKEND RETREAT FOR VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

The Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Military/Veterans Committee and local Vietnam Veterans Events Committee announces "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" event set for September 13 – 14, 2013.

2013 marks approximately 50 years since the beginning of the Vietnam War and exactly 40 years since the signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord. In light of this historic year, the Aberdeen Area Chamber of Commerce Military/Veterans Committee and local Vietnam Veterans Events Committee are planning several activities to honor their Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans. They are hopeful that this event will allow area Vietnam Veterans to experience the WELCOME they deserved so long ago.

The committee is currently planning a weekend retreat at the Brown County Fairgrounds in Aberdeen beginning Friday evening, September 13, and continuing through Saturday evening, September 14. RV and campsites will be available for those wishing to stay at the fairgrounds. The weekend will include food, local entertainment, and camaraderie starting Friday afternoon/evening at Centennial Village located at the Brown County Fairgrounds. Saturday's festivities will begin with a re-dedication ceremony at 11:00 am at the Vietnam Memorial in Anderson Park (Harrison and 7th Avenue) in Aberdeen. After the ceremony, several activities will be available to take part in such as a poker run, golf tournament, and other outdoor activities at the fairgrounds (to include children's entertainment). Food and beverages will be provided as well as a Vietnam Era (60's – 70's) Music Show Saturday evening.

All Veterans and the public are invited to attend. For more information, contact Nicole Renner at (605) 848-2874 or renner.nicole79@gmail.com.



STAND DOWN



VETERANS STAND DOWN

Sept. 20, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
VFW
3601 S. Minnesota Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Shuttle service will be every 1/2 hour starting at
8:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. from the following locations:

Vet Center on 49th and Oxbow

VOA Dakotas Veteran Outreach Center on 14th and Cliff

Union Gospel Mission on 8th and Railroad

On-the-spot help including bicycle repair, meals, clothing,
community housing referral, medical & dental treatment,
readjustment counseling, legal assistance, Women Veteran
services and much more!

For more information call:

(605)-330-4552

TOM GOHN RETIRES

The Department has received word that Tom Gohn, Brown County Veterans Service Officer, has retired effective July 19, 2013. Tom has served as the Brown County VSO since January 1990.

Most recently, Tom was presented the Jim Melgaard Award and was recognized for his outstanding service to South Dakota's veterans.

"Tom was a very passionate, knowledgeable and successful VSO," said Steve Oliva, Veterans Field Officer for the northeastern portion of South Dakota. "Tom was very active in reaching out to the new veterans and conducting community outreach programs."

The SDDVA staff wish Tom the very best in his retirement endeavors.



SDDVA EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Ask Larry Wilcox, Superintendent of the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home, what he likes most about his job and he will say, "All of it!". Wilcox, a strong supporter of his staff, recently had the opportunity to recognize four of his employees for their longevity service to the State of South Dakota. Those recognized were: Gayle Tescher—accounting assistant—seven years; Ann Remington—RN/Charge Nurse—eight years; John Bettelyoun—maintenance worker—15 years; and Susan Sihrer—assistant director of nursing—33 years.

"I cannot say enough about the employees at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home," said Wilcox. "I consider myself very fortunate to be a member of the State Veterans Home team of employees. Their dedication is reflected by their years of dedicated service to South Dakota's veterans."



Upcoming Events

Jul. 31– Aug. 4—American Veterans Traveling Tribute—Hot Springs
 Aug. 3—All Veterans Reunion—Hot Springs
 Aug. 4—Freedom Poker Ride—Hot Springs
 Aug. 21—SFVAHCS 12th Annual VA Show and Shine
 Aug. 21—Sioux Falls Veterans & Spouses Job Fair—Elmen Center (2505 S. Grange Avenue) —Sioux Falls—10:00 am
 Aug. 24—Walk for the Fallen—Sioux Falls
 Aug. 24-25—Freedom Bird 2013—W. H. Lyon Fairgrounds—Sioux Falls 10:00 am—5:00 pm
 Aug. 26-28—VSO Annual Benefits School—Ramkota Hotel—Pierre
 Aug. 29—Salute to Veterans and Military Personnel Day at the SD State Fair
 Aug. 31—DAV/727th Poker Run—Brookings Armory—11:00 am
 Sept. 11—Stand Down—Wagner
 Sept. 13—Stand Down Watertown
 Sept. 13-14— Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Retreat—Aberdeen
 Sept. 20—Stand Down—Sioux Falls—VFW Post 628 (3601 S. Minnesota Ave.) 8:00 am—3:00 pm
 Sept. 21—Black Hills Veterans March—Deadwood
 Sept. 24—Stand Down—Aberdeen
 Sept. 28-29—American Legion Golf Tournament—Webster
 Oct. 1—Black Hills National Cemetery Unaccompanied Veterans Memorial Service—9:00 am
 Dec. 15—Wreaths Across America Ceremony—Black Hills National Cemetery—10:00 am

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